Francisci, Anthony de

[24 W 60th St.]

1922-1936

February 7th, 1922.

Mr. Anthony de Francisci,
24 West 60th Street,
New York.

Dear Mr. de Francisci:-

Please pardon the delay in returning to you one of the 1921 dollars that I had the Medallic Art Company put a dull surface to. We had the two specimens on exhibition showing obverse and reverse, and it has been entirely my fault that I did not more promptly turn over one to you as I promised I would. The other dollar you let me have I gave to Mr. Noe.

Is there any way that we could get one of the 1922 pieces either with a mat finish or in any of its experimental stages before the improvements were all made?

Very truly yours,

Curator.

STUDIO
ANTHONY DE FRANCISCI
TWENTY-FOUR WEST SIXTIETH STREET
TELEPHONE COLUMBUS 2430
. . . NEW YORK CITY . . .

Feb. 9- 1922

Howland Wood - Esq -
The Numismatic Society -
156th street & Broadway.
New York -

My dear Mr. Wood:

A million thanks to you for the worthy article in comment of the new Dollar that I have just read in the Baltimore Numismatist. In a great "grouchy" crowds of critics that vented their disappointment in forceful terms I found a friend in you and your lines - It seems to me that the Numismatic associati~~on~~ felt slighted for some reason or other and their anger made them lose their nerve control and naturally they attacked the Dollar. It was unfortunate. however, as I am innocent of it all -

I have rec'd your registered letter and pray accept my thanks for the trouble of having the coin patinaed -

In regard to the 1922 coin I can readily say that the mint is not ready yet. For the last two weeks I have been experimenting with several solutions for a relief of coin quality easy to strike and eliminate the faults of the first one.

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I remodelled the head over again in a very low relief - while they were reducing the original model about 12 points lower than the 1921.
After 6 days of intense work I rushed the model of the new head (the eagle side being considered O'K') to the Mint and they made couple ~~of~~ reductions of different heighth - to-day. in Philadelphia. Mr. Baker Mr. Fraser and I discovered that the new head lacked the expression of the original 1921 design, and it was decided to return to the lowest reduction of that design and with the aid of the engraver to retouch hair and Liberty and perhaps the thickness of the rays and if everything will come all right to resume striking 180.000.000 on this Saturday. I am going back to Phila. to morrow. Friday, for the sixth time to supervise the work of the engraver.

I showed the last paragraph of your letter to day. to the Director Baker and he informed me that he felt unable to grant your wish since he has given strict orders to the Mint officials to melt all the trial pieces of the 1922.

I am keeping for you all the data regarding the model as I understand from Mr. Fraser that you have received consent from the Treasury Dept for the issue of a "Monogram".

Excuse my tiresome lines -

Regards to Mr. Roe.

Thanking you I am truly Francisci

February 14th, 1922

Mr. Anthony de Francisci
24 West 60th Street
New York City

Dear Mr. de Francisci:

I was very glad to get your letter. Two or three people have spoken to me about my criticism, thanking me for writing it as I did. I knew at the time that most of the criticisms would be knocks, so I worded something partly to soften those knocks by stating that one cannot judge fairly without knowing all the circumstances and knowing what the artist may have thought of and rejected probably.

I think Noe will take up very shortly the article on the new dollar. As yet he has not heard from the Director of the Mint.

With kind regards,

Very truly yours,

HW/E

Curator

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Sept 25 - 1922

Howland Wood. Esq.
Numismatic Society
New York City

My dear Mr. Wood:

I had the pleasure to see Mr. Dove the other day on board the "America" and instructed me that the pleasures of his office are yours now.

He was telling me that he has had done a board or frame containing a few of my medallic examples and he suggested there is room for some more.

To day, Commodore Ralph Ellis, of Seawahaka Corinthian yacht club, a client of mine, expressed to me his desire to donate a medal (three inches - gold plated bronze) that I completed very recently for the British-American yacht races, to the permanent show of the numismatic museum -

I would like to hear from you on this little matter

And oblige

Respectfully yours -

Anthony de Francisci

September 26th, 1922

Mr. Anthony de Francisci
24 West 60th Street
New York City

Dear Mr. de Francisci:

I was on the point of writing you when your letter came.

We shall be very glad indeed to have the British-American Yacht Race medal which you mention, and I shall take much pleasure in placing it on exhibition with the rest of your medals. As you know, or should know, we are always very pleased to get any of your medals but we realize that it is too much to ask any artist to furnish us with copies, so whenever you can find a good angel who will help us out, please do so!

Mr. Noe's steamer touched at Philadelphia, and he wrote to me from there with regard to the medallic exhibition which he saw when ashore for a few hours. I think he was a little disappointed in what he saw exhibited there as not the number of artists were represented whom he was led to expect, and many of them did not make attractive displays.

As I am not so much in the swing of art activities as Noe, will you please keep me posted with regard to any medallic exhibitions here; and also let me know upon what you are working from time to time.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E

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. . . NEW YORK CITY . . .

October 6. 1922

Howland Wood Esq.
American Numismatic Society
New York city -

My dear Mr. Wood: -

I expect to receive the gold plated impressions of Sewanhaka-Corinthian yacht club Medal in a few days and they will be ready for your ~~[illegible]~~ Museum display right after - Commodore Ralph Ellis of Jericho. L. I. is immensely pleased while donating it and I would like to suggest that a formal letter of acceptance be sent to him with thanks.

I will keep you posted as soon the medals (obverse and reverse) will be available -

There is another little affair I would like to talk to you about.

When Mr. Roe was in my studio last I showed him the models of a new medals that I have been developing for the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers and he suggested, I think, to ask this committee in charge if they would care to donate a bronze copy of this medal, when completed, to Numismatic Society -

While I was showing the almost completed

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models to Mr. Walter Douglas, chairman of this committee having this medals in charge. I suggested or rather informed him of Mr. Noe's desire to secure a copy of this work for the Society Museum thru the kind donation of the said committee.

Mr. Douglas answered affirmatively and in fact was pleased immensely -

Now, Mr Wood, I wish you would write, at your leisure, to Mr. Walter Douglas, 99 John Street, and ask in the name of the Society for this donation.

You may state, if you wish, that Mr. Noe was pleased with this work of mine and would be desirous to secure a copy for the gallery of medals.

I sincerely regret I am giving you so much to do but I am certain that both Mr. Noe and I will appreciate your efforts.

I am enclosing a cheque of $5.00 for this year 'dues - Mr. Reilley sent me word this morning about it and threatened me with "By laws" on amount of delay in paying dues - Please tell him not to be harsh - but have mercy - I have some lot of dues to pay annually and loose track of them all at times -

Respectfully yours. A. de Francisci

October 10th, 1922

Mr. Anthony de Francisci
24 West 60th Street
New York City

Dear Mr. de Francisci:

I was very glad to get your interesting letter, and have turned over the cheque for dues to our book-keeper.

I am looking forward to getting the impressions of the medals about which you write, and will write to Commodore Ralph Ellis thanking him. I will also send a line to Mr. Walter Douglas. I believe one of our members is on this Committee - Mr. Charles F. Rand. Mr. Rand was talking to me the other day about die-cutters. He seemed disinclined to have this work done by the Medallic Art as they want to keep possession of the dies. I suggested John F. Newman. I understand that Newman is making a special play to do good work; we told them that in order to do good work, they should keep as close as possible in touch with the artist, as the customers, for the most part, were not competent judges. If Newman does this, let me know how you come out with him.

I shall always be glad to assist in taking our part to secure medals for the Museum, so do not consider it any hardship for me to write.

We have just heard from Mr. Noe from Syracuse; he cables that he is now on his way to Athens.

Very truly yours,

March 26, 1936.

Mr. Anthony de Francisci
508 W. 114th Street
New York City.

Dear Mr. de Francisci:

In the consignment of medals received recently from the Medallic Art Company there were two silver cliches of your recent medal. Thank you verymuch indeed. These will contrast very nicely with the other medals in your section which I consider one of the most attractive we have.

I have been promising myself the pleasure of getting down to your studio but it seems as though everything combined to make it difficult. I shall make another effort although it may be Eastertide before I get there. I have a lecture for next week and a Council meeting for the following week, to say nothing of complications here in the building. I hope everything is going well with you. Please say that I ask you to give my greetings to your wife.

Cordially yours,

SN:JG

Secretary